Nimai Pandit's Wedding to Laksmi

Scene One - The courtyard of Mata Saci's house

(Nimai is sitting studying, and Mata Saci is sewing, or doing household duties. Mata Saci watches Nimai and then walks to center stage, where she thinks out loud, unheard by Nimai)

Saci:(to the audience) My Nimai is such a great scholar. All the residents of Navadvipa respect Him so. He is now in His full youth, and soon He will be a young man. I wonder if I should think about a suitable wife for Him. I know of the daughter of Vallabhacharya she is very beautiful and devoted to Lord Krishna. But, maybe Nimai isn't ready yet. He is always studying and teaching His students. Vishvarupa, His elder brother, went away and took sannyasa when he found out that his father was planning his marriage. And his father has recently left this world. Maybe I should wait. I don't think this would be a good time to bring it up. (Mata Saci goes off stage. Nimai puts his books away and gets up to go. As He walks off stage, Lakshmi Priya passes Him, carrying a water pot. As soon as she sees Him, she offers her obeisances. Then, realizing what she did, she covers her face shyly with her cloth and leaves. Nimai smiles and watches her go)

Nimai:(speaking to the audience) I did not take sannyasa, and since I am remaining at home it is My duty to act as a householder. Without a wife there is no meaning to householder life. Merely a house is not a home, for it is a wife that gives the home meaning. If one lives at home with a wife, together they can fulfill all the interests of human life. (Nimai leaves the stage)

Narrator:The same day, Vanamali, the village marriage-maker, happens to come to the house of Saci Mata. He offers her his respects, and with great affection she gives him a place to sit down. (actors do this as Narrator is talking. Mata Saci brings a straw mat and some water. Then she sits down, too)

Vanamali:Saci Mata, why are you not thinking about the marriage of your son. Vallabhacharya is living here in Navadvipa. In his house they are very strict, pure vegetarians. They are very pure brahmanas. There is no defect in their family or behavior. Vallabhacharya has a very beautiful and chaste daughter; she is almost like Lakshmi, the Goddess of Fortune. What about trying to make an engagement with Vallabhacharya's family for your son to marry his daughter, Lakshmi Priya? If you think this is a good match, then I can make the arrangements immediately.

Saci:My dear brahmana. I already know of this girl. She is very beautiful and devoted to Lord Krishna. I was also thinking that she would be a suitable daughter-in-law. But I'm not sure that this is the best time for my Nimai to

marry. He has recently lost His father. Also, He is so much involved with His studies and His school, and He is still so young. I think that He should first grow a little older. There is plenty of time later for these things. I don't think Nimai should marry just now.

Vanamali:(looking very disappointed) Nimai is a very handsome young man. It is time that He is married. What does He think of this? Have you discussed it with Him?

Saci:Well, no, I haven't. But, He is still too young. I will discuss it with Him some time later.

Vanamali:(getting up to leave, Mata Saci stands, too) But, you have no objection to the girl or her family?

Saci:Oh, no! She is a very nice girl; I was already thinking of her as a suitable wife for Nimai.

Vanamali:But not now?

Saci:No, not now.

Vanamali:I can't tell you how disappointed I am with your decision. Please reconsider this, and I will come back again to see you. (Vanamali turns and Mata Saci leaves the stage. He is very saddened by the words of Mata Saci. As he is walking to the other side of the stage, Nimai enters. Vanamali embraces Nimai)

Nimai:Please tell me, my dear brahmana, where have you been? Who's house were you visiting?

Vanamali:I went to see your mother. We were talking about your marriage.

Nimai:What did she say?

Vanamali:She would not listen to my words. She did not want to discuss your marrIage. I don't know why she wouldn't listen to my words. (when Nimai hears this, He is silent for a minute, thinking)

Nimai:I must go now, My students will be here soon.

Vanamali:Yes, I have matters to attend to also, Namaste.

Nimai:Hare Krishna! (Vanamali leaves, and Mata Saci enters from the other side. Nimai goes to her smiling) Mata, why didn't you listen to Vanamali? I just met him on the road. You should receive a brahmana with favorable

words when he comes to visit, and listen to what he says.

Saci:You think that I should be more favorable to what a brahmana says?

Nimai:Yes, Vanamali is very intelligent. You should be very kind to him. I have to go now. My students will be here soon. (Nimai leaves)

Saci:Ishana! (her servant comes in) Go and tell Vanamali to come to see me tomorrow. (Ishana leaves, Mata Saci leaves)

Narrator:The next day when Vanamali returns, Mata Saci has news more to his liking. She tells him to arrange the marriage without delay. He is very happy with this news and, taking the dust of her feet, he proceeds to the house of Vallabhacharya.

Scene Two - Vallabhacharya's house

(Vallabhacharya along with his wife and Lakshmi Priya are worshiping the family Deity. When they are done, Vanamali enters. He is brought a seat and something to drink by Lakshmi Priya and her mother, and then they leave the stage. Vallabhacharya sits down next to Vanamali)

Vallabha:My dear brahmana, please accept our obeisances. Please tell me how I can be of service to you. If there is anything that you need, I will do my best to get it for you. You are a great devotee of Lord Krishna, and by serving the devotees one can get the mercy of the Lord.

Vanamali:My dear Vallabhacharya, I just want you to listen to my words with great care and attention. This will bring great benefit to you and your family. You should immediately, on the most auspicious moment, arrange for the marriage of your daughter without delay. The son of Jagannath Mishra, whose name is Vishvambhar, and who is the greatest pandit and the ocean of all good qualities, is the suitable person for your daughter, Lakshmi Priya. I am presenting this to you, and you should give full consideration. If you think it appropriate, then you should accept this arrangement without delay.

Vallabha:Your words bring great joy to my heart. Who could get a better husband for his daughter. I must be very fortunate Krishna is very merciful upon me. Only if Lakshmi Devi herself is satisfied with my daughter is it possible for her to be married to such a bridegroom. I very happily accept your suggestion; please do the needful immediately. But, I have one problem that I am very shy to talk about: I am actually very poor I don't have anything that I can give except my daughter. As a dowry I can only give five pieces of spice. This is my offering you can agree whether it is acceptable or not.

Vanamali:(very happy) Vallabhacharya, your words are so pleasing for me to hear. Please do not worry about anything. I am sure that everything can be successfully arranged. Now I must go inform Saci Mata and make the arrangements.
(wedding dance)